

## ABSTRACT

Described herein are compositions for delivering a therapeutic agent across the oral mucosa. In general, the compositions comprise at least one therapeutic agent, a carrier, and a buffer system. The therapeutic agents may be acidic, basic, or amphoteric and are initially, at least in part, present in an ionized form. The buffer system comprises at least two different buffering agents and is capable of changing the pH of the saliva from an arbitrary initial pH to a predetermined final pH, independent of the arbitrary initial pH, and of sustaining the final pH for a predetermined period of time. In addition, the buffer systems described herein favor the substantially complete conversion of the ionized form of the therapeutic agent to the un-ionized form so that practically all of the therapeutic agent will be delivered rapidly across the mucous membranes of the oral cavity. Chewing gums, lozenges, and quick-dissolving tablets are exemplified.